



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Montré D. Freeman, City Manager
J. Phillip Webster, Interim Chief of Police

Date: January 5, 2023

Subject: Consideration – Authorize Application for Governor’s Highway Safety Program Grant for FY2023-2024

BACKGROUND:

The North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program (GHSP) will start accepting grant applications for FY2023-2024 beginning January 1, 2023, and will continue through January 31, 2023. These funds provide monies to be used toward the purchase of much needed traffic safety equipment through safety initiatives. This particular funding opportunity would help the Elizabeth City Police Department to purchase an additional portable light tower and two (2) radars. The Department plans to use this equipment to assist in our safety initiatives to conduct traffic checkpoints and to help reduce speeding. The Elizabeth City Police Department is seeking Council approval to submit a preliminary application directly to the North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program for this funding so that the opportunity to receive grant monies is not missed. There is a 50% match required, so there would be a budget impact in the FY2023-2024 if the grant application is approved as submitted.

ANALYSIS:

The NC GHSP grant for FY2023-2024 allows for purchase of traffic equipment to be used by law enforcement for safety initiatives. If the Elizabeth City Police Department is approved for funding under this equipment grant, the City of Elizabeth City would be responsible for a 50% match of the cost and the North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program would cover the remaining 50%. The Department wishes to submit a preliminary grant application for the following traffic equipment:

- One (1) Portable Light Tower totaling \$6,913.50
- Two (2) Radar Kits totaling \$4,284.50

The total grant amount the Department wishes to submit in its application is \$11,198.00. Of this total amount, the City's portion would be \$5,599.00 and the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program would cover the additional \$5,599.00. The budget impact of the 50% match would not be incurred until the 2023-2024 fiscal budget year as previously stated. Award announcements for this particular grant are not expected until October 2023.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

By motion, approve the ECPD's submission of a preliminary grant application to the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program for the purchase of the traffic equipment specified above; and that the City appropriate funding to cover the 50% match in the amount of \$5,599.00 in the 2023-2024 fiscal budget year, in preparation for a potential grant award in October 2023.